

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:I M SILINS
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:N G ANDREWS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
FOR EUR/EE ONLY; 3 COPIES ONLY
-----088679 021531Z /41
R 021415Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053460

FOR SIMONS FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OGEN, RO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. CHIEFS OF MISSION. AMBASSADOR AGGREY WILL WANT TO KNOW THAT AN EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IS BEING PLANNED FOR LONDON, JUNE 16-17, FOLLOWING THE OECD MINISTERIAL. STILL TENTATIVE, BUT WORTH NOTING ON YOUR CALENDAR.

2. ITALIAN TRANSIT VISAS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING OUT A REPORT, PASSED ON TO US BY CATHERINE HILL OF SENATOR JACKSON'S OFFICE, THAT DANA MARIA SUFANA WAS DENIED AN ITALIAN TRANSIT VISA FOR TCP PROCESSING. THE ITALIAN CONSUL IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD HER THAT HE COULD NOT ISSUE VISAS BECAUSE ITALY "HAS NO GOVERNMENT". THIS COMES BY WAY OF DIMITRIE APOSTOLIU, WHOSE CREDIBILITY IS QUESTIONABLE, AND WE UNDERSTAND SUFANA ALSO SOMETIMES GIVES DIFFERENT
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ACCOUNTS OF THE SAME EVENT, BUT WE NEED TO REPORT BACK TO MS. HILL. SINCE ROME WILL BE OF INCREASED IMPORTANCE TO US IF INS GOES ALONG WITH OUR PROPOSAL, PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH ITALIAN TRANSIT VISAS THAT WOULD AFFECT USE OF THE ROME ROUTE. SUCH REPORTS SHOULD BE IN NORMAL CABLE CHANNEL SO WE CAN SHARE THEM WITH VO, HA, INS, ETC.

3. PENSIONS/SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS. WE RECEIVE PERIODIC CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF ROMANIANS NOW RESIDENT IN THE U.S. WHO WANT HELP IN GETTING THE ROMANIAN PENSIONS OR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS WHICH THEY WOULD BE RECEIVING IF THEY HAD NOT LEFT ROMANIA. AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THEM NOW, NOR DO WE FEEL VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GETTING A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT FROM THE GOR THAT WOULD COVER SUCH PERSONS, SINCE IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COST THE GOR MUCH MORE THAN IT WOULD COST US. FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, DO YOU SEE ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT IF WE WERE TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE WITH THE GOR, WE WOULD GET ANYWHERE?

4. DUAL NATIONALS. NOT FORGOTTEN, BUT NOT MOVING VERY FAST EITHER. BARBARA WATSON'S DEPUTY, BOB HENNEMEYER, IS UNDERTAKING CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH IT TURNED OUT WERE NECESSARY BEFORE THE CIRCULAR 175 COULD BE SUBMITTED. WE HOPE THESE WILL BE QUICK AND INFORMAL, AND THEN WE CAN PROCEED. WE ARE VERY MINDFUL OF THE DESIRABILITY OF BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE CEAUSESCU VISIT.

5. VANIK/HUMAN RIGHTS. VANIK'S STAFFER DAVE ROHR HAD BEGUN TO GET THE IMPRESSION FROM CLIFF BRODY OF HA THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE RAISING WIDER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PERHAPS INCLUDING THE RAUTA CASE, AT THIS YEAR'S HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN EMIGRATION/MFN. APPARENTLY TO GIVE VANIK THE FULL BENEFIT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, ROHR ARRANGED A MEETING FOR HIM FEBRUARY 28 WITH BOTH EUR (LUERS, SCHMIDT, SILINS) AND HA (MARK SCHNEIDER). ALTHOUGH BEFORE THE MEETING SCHNEIDER WAS ARGUING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER NOT ONLY ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE BUT OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS FACTORS (NOT SPECIFIED, BUT EVIDENTLY INCLUDING THE RAUTA CASE) IN MAKING OUR DECISION ON WAIVER EXTENSION, DURING THE MEETING SCHNEIDER WAS LARGELY SILENT. NEITHER VANIK NOR ROHR WANTS TO EXPAND THE FOCUS OF THE HEARINGS, NOR DO WE. VANIK BELIEVES THAT IF WE INJECT OTHER ISSUES, THIS WILL JUST OPEN THE DOOR TO WHAT HE CALLS "MISCHIEF MAKERS" IN THE CONGRESS WHO, ESPECIALLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR, MIGHT TORPEDO MFN ALTOGETHER. WE AGREED THAT THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY ISSUE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY ARISE AND THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS IT, BUT WE WILL DO SO IN A WAY THAT SEPARATES IT FROM ISSUES WITH A DIRECT BEARING ON MFN. WE MADE CLEAR THAT THE RAUTA CASE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PIVOTAL FOR MFN, BUT LUERS OUTLINED THE STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN SO FAR AND SUGGESTED THAT VANIK MIGHT LEND HIS SUPPORT IN PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS TO

THE GOR IF A SUITABLE OPENING PRESENTS ITSELF. TENTATIVE

PLANS ARE FOR VANIK'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD A HEARING ON HUNGARIAN MFN IN LATE APRIL (WE DECIDED AFTER THE CEAUSESCU VISIT WOULD BE BEST, SINCE THE MINORITY ISSUE MIGHT ARISE) AND ON ROMANIA IN LATE MAY. THE DAY AFTER THIS MEETING, ROHR TOLD CARL SCHMIDT THAT HE FELT HE HAD GIVEN HA AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. THE ASSUMPTION NOW IS THAT OUR APPROACH REPRESENTS A CONSENSUS.

6. WORLD BANK. THE CHRISTOPHER GROUP REVIEWED THE PROPOSED \$85 MILLION IBRD LOAN FOR TWO ROMANIAN TIRE PLANTS WITHOUT REACHING A DECISION. WHY CHRISTOPHER DECIDED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DELAY IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE IS NOT RPT NOT INCLINED TO RECOMMEND A NEGATIVE VOTE OR AN ABSTENTION. WE OF COURSE OPPOSE NEGATIVE ACTION ON WHAT WE THINK ARE SOLID GROUNDS, BUT THIS IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF ROMANIA AS A HIGHLY OPPRESSIVE COUNTRY IS GIVING US SOME TROUBLE.

7. EXPORT CONTROLS. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED SOME LIBERALIZATION OF EXPORT CONTROLS FOR ROMANIA IN THE CONTEXT OF AN INTERAGENCY REVIEW. WE WOULD EXPECT SOME SUPPORT FROM COMMERCE AND OPPOSITION FROM DOD. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.

8. SOVIET LUNCH. WE HOPE YOU RECEIVED TALKING POINTS IN TIME. SOV SENT A CABLE TO OC/T ON SATURDAY AFTER WE LEARNED THE LUNCH WAS TO BE ON MONDAY, BUT NO ONE CAN FIND A COMEBACK COPY SO FAR.

9. AMBASSADOR'S AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE. ANOTHER HITCH. AFTER SOME DELAY, INTS WAS TOLD THAT THE WHITE HOUSE NEEDS THE IDENTIFYING NUMBERS AND DATE ON THE PICTURE. AMBASSADOR AGGREY WANTS AUTOGRAPHED BY THE PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO LOCATE THE RIGHT NEGATIVE. IF THERE ARE NO NUMBERS, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD FORWARD HIS PRINT OF THE PICTURE, AND BOB KING HAS PROMISED TO SEE THAT IT IS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE053460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: I M SILINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-1159
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803114/aaaadsrj.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35d5bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3139375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN, RO
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35d5bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014